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Reports

[Item#1](#)

Blame for Both Sides as Possible Government Shutdown Approaches. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 23, 2013.

If the federal government shuts down because Republicans and the Obama administration fail to agree on a budget, there will be plenty of blame to go around. About as many say they would blame the Republicans (39%) for such a standoff as say they would blame Obama (36%), with 17% volunteering that both would be equally to blame.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/9-23-13%20Shutdown%20Threat%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 506.33 KB].

Item#2

Bo Xilai Conviction Will Do Little to Curb Corruption. YaleGlobal. Zhiwu Chen. September 24, 2013.

China's officials discourage public debate about corruption, regarding it as criticism of Communist Party rule, yet some abuses of power can't escape attention, notably those associated with Bo Xilai, the popular former party chief of Chongqing, who has received a life sentence for bribery. The trial avoided years of systematic abuses, and so far, President Xi Jinping is following old trends, doing more to crack down on media reports and citizen debate than propose reforms that might curb corruption, explains Zhiwu Chen. Reviewing the history of Chinese government revenue, Chen urges strong constitutional reforms to reduce private gains from corruption and heighten perceptions of the perceived costs. China's citizens count among many worldwide who view corruption and bribery on the rise, yet Transparency International did not include China in its global report on corruption because organizers did not find a group in China willing to conduct the poll.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/bo-xilai-conviction-will-do-little-curb-corruption> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

For Now, Putin Struts on the World Stage. YaleGlobal. Thomas Graham. September 19, 2013.

The crisis over the use of chemical weapons in Syria has offered an opportunity for a diplomatic initiative that Russian President Vladimir Putin has grasped with both hands. The result, writes Thomas Graham, has been to bring Russia center stage in Middle East diplomacy. For years, Putin has criticized the U.S. for its hegemonic designs and violating sovereignty of states in the name of humanitarian intervention, but has received scant support. Russia hopes that the planned elimination of Syria's chemical weapons will open the path to a negotiated settlement, strengthening its position in the Middle East. While his success is not assured, Putin's decisive and deft diplomacy has brought Russia back to the world stage.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/now-putin-struts-world-stage> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

The US and Iran in a Tantalizing Dance. YaleGlobal. Abbas Amanat. September 26, 2013.

There was no handshake between Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and U.S. President Barack Obama during the United Nations General Assembly, but the tone of their rhetoric promises a sea change in relations after more than three decades. The Iranian public supports Rouhani's moderate proposals as a means to securing respect, stability and an end to debilitating sanctions imposed by the West. But he

must tread with caution, observes Abbas Amanat. Rouhani has a narrow time frame to fulfill campaign promises for restless Iranians, assure the West that Iran's nuclear program intends no harm, keep hardliners at bay and, above all, satisfy Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who under the Iranian constitution is not accountable to any earthly authority. Amanat suggests that Rouhani may have just a year to prove that his moderate style can produce results for the many competing interests at home and abroad.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-and-iran-tantalizing-dance> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

Latin America: Anti-US in Words, Not Deeds. YaleGlobal. Luisa Parraguez et al. October 1, 2013.

An avalanche of secrets exposed by a former National Security Agency contract worker, is complicating U.S. relations with southern neighbors. Reports allege that the United States spied on countries regardless of poor or good relations. Stopping the Bolivian president's plane in Europe for a few hours to search for Edward Snowden may be a hiccup compared with allegations that the NSA compromised computers of Brazil's state-owned oil company and spied on President Dilma Rousseff. Rousseff blasted the U.S. with a speech before the UN General Assembly. Still, "The United States and Latin America are joined at the hip, economically and demographically," explain the authors. Trade between north and south continues, and Latin Americans are the largest ethnic minority in the U.S..Brazil, as the world's sixth largest economy, has concerns about what Rousseff labeled "industrial espionage," and the nation may use the allegations for future leverage. Trade will likely continue to trump ideology.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/latin-america-anti-us-words-not-deeds> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

The Dark Side of Transition: Violence Against Muslims in Myanmar. International Crisis Group. October 1, 2013.

According to the brief, unless there is an effective government response and change in societal attitudes, violence against Myanmar's Muslim communities could spread, jeopardising the country's transition as well as its standing in the region and beyond.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-east-asia/burma-myanmar/251-the-dark-side-of-transition-violence-against-muslims-in-myanmar.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages, 2.7 MB].

Item#7

Country Analysis Briefs: Brazil. U.S. Energy Information Administration. October 1, 2013.

The latest complete EIA statistics for all countries (2010) indicate Brazil is the 8th largest energy consumer in the world and the third largest in the Americas, behind the United States and Canada. Total

primary energy consumption in Brazil has increased by more than one third in the past decade because of sustained economic growth. EIA 2010 statistics show Brazil is the 10th largest energy producer in the world. In addition, Brazil has made great strides in increasing its total energy production, particularly oil and ethanol. Increasing domestic oil production has been a long-term goal of the Brazilian government, and recent discoveries of large offshore, pre-salt oil deposits could transform Brazil into one of the largest oil producers in the world.

<http://www.eia.gov/countries/analysisbriefs/brazil/brazil.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages, 474.47 KB].

Item#8

A Portrait of Jewish Americans. Pew Research Religion & Public Life Project. October 1, 2013.

American Jews overwhelmingly say they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people, according to the survey. But the survey also suggests that Jewish identity is changing in America, where one-in-five Jews (22%) now describe themselves as having no religion. The percentage of U.S. adults who say they are Jewish when asked about their religion has declined by about half since the late 1950s and currently is a little less than 2%. Meanwhile, the number of Americans with direct Jewish ancestry or upbringing who consider themselves Jewish, yet describe themselves as atheist, agnostic or having no particular religion, appears to be rising and is now about 0.5% of the U.S. adult population.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/10/jewish-american-survey-full-report.pdf> [PDF format, 212 pages, 2.51 MB].

Item#9

Anger at Government Most Pronounced among Conservative Republicans. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 30, 2013.

Public anger at the federal government is as high as at any point since the Pew Research Center began asking the question in 1997. Anger is most palpable among conservative Republicans - 41% say they are angry at the federal government, the highest among any partisan group. The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Sept. 25-29 among 1,005 adults, finds that 26% overall say they are angry at the federal government, while 51% feel frustrated. Just 17% say they are basically content with the government.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/09-30-13%20Views%20of%20Gov't%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages, 305.42 KB].

Item#10

Who's Not Online and Why. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Kathryn Zickuhr. September 25, 2013.

As of May 2013, 15% of American adults ages 18 and older do not use the internet or email. Even among the 85% of adults who do go online, experiences connecting to the internet may vary widely. For instance, even though 76% of adults use the internet at home, 9% of adults use the internet but lack

home access. These internet users cite many reasons for not having internet connections at home, most often relating to issues of affordability--some 44% mention financial issues such as not having a computer, or having a cheaper option outside the home.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2013/PIP_Offline%20adults_092513.pdf [PDF format, 31 pages, 874 KB].